

AN INEXPENSIVE METHOD  
FOR PRODUCING UNIT TRAYSCHARLES E. WHITE<sup>1</sup> AND DAVID S. WHITE<sup>2</sup>

It was mentioned in the October, 1972 issue of the *Coleopterists Newsletter* that my father<sup>1</sup> produced his own unit trays. His death prevented him from answering the many requests for further details; thus, I am publishing the procedures which he used.

The following method will produce a good quality but inexpensive unit tray. The trays and boxes may be stored and assembled as needed. Materials can be ordered from, and if desired, precut by most local box manufacturers. The boxes are 0.032 white vat-lined chipboard; the cover paper is standard one side glossy; the pinning surface is 1/4 inch balsa wood. The drawers are 1/4 inch basswood or similar material with a bottom of 1/4 inch hard fiberboard.

The dimensions may be altered to suit the collection; those given here were found to be the most workable in housing Coleoptera. The smallest box (Size 1) is used for species where there are only 1 or 2 specimens. Size 4 easily holds a series of the larger species. Size 2 was used about 4 times more than Size 1 or 3 and 10 times more than Size 4. A drawer of the given dimensions will hold 54 of the Size 2 boxes.

Plywood cases can be made to house the unit trays. If the cases have proper seals, there is no need to make tops for the drawers. A sheet of glass, however, may be useful in protecting specimens in the drawer while out of the case.

Procedure (all measurements given in inches): A mandril (1 1/2 × 1 × 2) is needed for the smallest box and 1 (3 1/4 × 1 × 2) for the larger sizes. A screw partially inserted into the mandril makes a useable handle.

1. Score half way through the box at fold lines (Fig. 1).
2. Fold around mandril and form corners with adhesive tape. If using tape which must be wetted, allow to dry thoroughly.
3. With box slightly on mandril, fold broader sides of cover paper around box (glossy side out).
4. Apply paste to folded sides of cover paper. Form on box and allow to dry.
5. Paste and fold remaining sides of cover paper around box. Neatly pinch the inside corners with the mandril.
6. Paste pinning area in place.

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TABLE I. BOX AND COVER PAPER DIMENSIONS:

Box Size	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	1 1/2	1 19/32	1 23/32	1 3/4	1 1/2	1 13/32	2 3/4	2
2	1 1/2	3 3/4	1 23/32	3 21/32	1 1/2	1 13/32	4 21/32	2
3	2 15/16	3 3/4	1 23/32	3 21/32	2 15/16	2 27/32	4 21/32	2
4	4 1/4	3 3/4	1 23/32	3 21/32	4 1/4	4 5/32	4 21/32	2

Inside tray dimensions:  $20 \frac{3}{8} \times 14 \times 1 \frac{7}{8}$ .

Balsa wood pinning area cut to dimensions A and B.

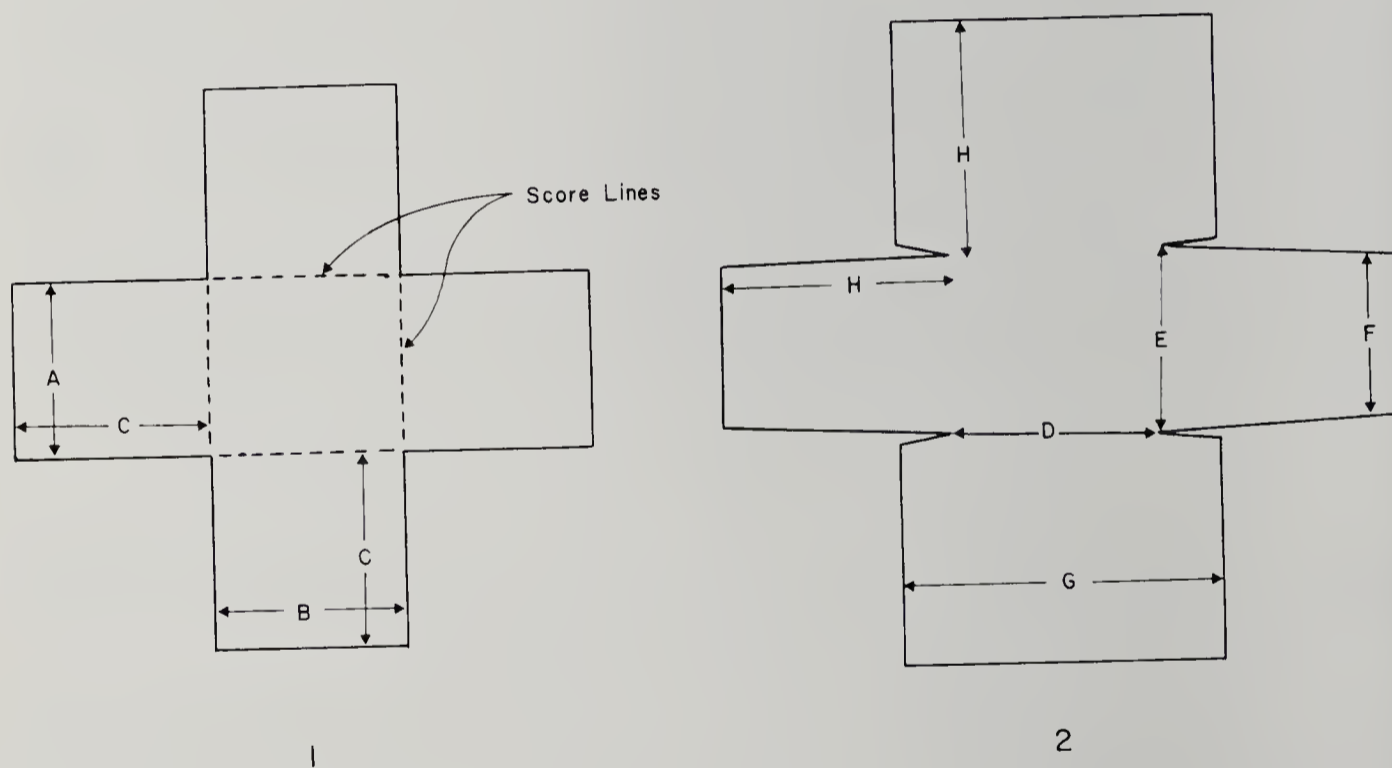


Fig. 1) Outline of chipboard box; 2) Outline of cover paper (dimensions given in table).